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Commission on the Status of Women

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Agenda item 3 (a)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": review of gender mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system

United States of America: revised draft resolution

Eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to all forms of trafficking of women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,¹

Recalling the full range of previous resolutions on the problem of trafficking in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, in particular their reaffirmation of the principles set forth in the relevant human rights instruments and declarations and the resolve expressed by heads of Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration² to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in human beings,

Also recalling the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,³

¹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ See General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II.



Acknowledging the fact that the majority of trafficked persons are women and girls, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Concerned about the increasing occurrence of trafficking for all forms of exploitation, especially for commercial sexual exploitation, which overwhelmingly affects women and girls,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to provide protection to the victims and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned that the exploitation of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus of transnational organized crime,

Convinced that eliminating demand for all forms of exploitation, in particular for commercial sexual exploitation, is a key element to combating trafficking in women and girls,

Deeply concerned over all activities that fuel the demand for victims of trafficking, in particular activities by armed forces, peacekeepers and military and civilian advisers in other countries,

Welcoming the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and her intention to devote special attention in her annual report to thematic issues, including, inter alia, the root causes of trafficking and discouragement of the demand that fosters trafficking for the purposes of all forms of exploitation,

1. *Calls upon* Governments to:

(a) Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(b) Criminalize trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, in all its forms and to condemn and penalize traffickers and intermediaries, while ensuring protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights;

(c) Adopt or strengthen and enforce legislative or other measures, such as educational, social and cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to deter exploiters and discourage the demand that fosters trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation of persons;

(d) Conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, including mutual assistance treaties, agreements and memoranda of understanding to enhance law enforcement and judicial cooperation, and specific measures aimed at reducing demand, as appropriate, to complement the United Nations Convention against

Transnational Organized Crime⁴ and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;³

2. *Also calls upon* Governments and encourages civil society to:

(a) Take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, including to address the demand side of the problem, to publicize laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime and a violation of the human rights of trafficked persons in order to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls, including by sex tourists;

(b) Implement educational programmes, including at the local level, in order to raise awareness of the negative consequences of commercial sexual exploitation, including its links to trafficking in persons, organized crime and harmful public health effects, such as the spread of HIV/AIDS;

(c) Undertake research on best practices, methods and strategies, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in women and girls, in particular to eliminate demand;

3. *Encourages* the business sector, in particular the tourism industry and Internet providers, to develop or adhere to codes of conduct, with a view to preventing trafficking in persons and protecting the victims of such traffic, especially with regard to commercial sexual exploitation, and promoting their rights, dignity and security, including through collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure the provision of training on commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including trafficking, to armed forces, peacekeepers and military and civilian advisers to be stationed in other countries, including for United Nations peacekeeping missions, and to ensure that allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, including trafficking, will be swiftly investigated and dealt with to the fullest extent.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 55/25.